

REMARKS

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-4 and 7-22 are pending in this application, with Claims 1, 8-10, 13, and 16-19 being independent.

Claims 1, 3, 8-10, 13, and 16-19 have been amended. Applicant submits that support for the amendments can be found in the original disclosure, and therefore no new matter has been added.

Claims 3 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has amended Claim 3 in view of the Examiner's comments and submits that these amendments address the Examiner's concern. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are requested.

Claims 1-4 and 8-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,275,599 (Adler). Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Adler as applied to Claim 1 and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,571,020 (Dumoulin). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for the reasons discussed below.

As recited in independent Claim 1, the present invention includes, *inter alia*, the features of lossless-compressing data of at least a first predetermined bit plane of an original image to form compression data, and embedding the compression data into the first predetermined bit plane of the original image data. With these features, it is possible to faithfully restore the original image while at the same time preventing an increase in the whole image data by holding

the key information to be used in the restoration. Applicants submit that the cited art fails to disclose or suggest at least these features.

Adler discloses that a hash is extracted from image data, and the data obtained from the data from which the hash is extracted is embedded in the image data. However, that patent does not disclose or suggest lossless-compressing data of at least a first predetermined bit plane of an original image, and Applicant submits that in the system of Adler the image data prior to extraction of the hash cannot be obtained from the data from which the hash was extracted. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the original image cannot be faithfully restored.

The other cited art also fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-mentioned features of Claim 1.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the present invention recited in independent Claim 1 is patentable over the art of record. The other independent claims recite similar features and are believed to be patentable for reasons similar to Claim 1. The dependent claims are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as the independent claims, as well as for the additional features they recite.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the outstanding rejections, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. L. Klock', is written over a horizontal line.

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